Encyclopedia
A Brief Introduction to the World of Sine Mora EX

The Place

The planet Seol (often referred to as the seol) lies in the Orloi solar system.

Seol's composition is different from Earth in several ways – the atmosphere ("air") is denser, but the water is thinner (since it contains a large amount of clean oxygen). The atmospheric electromagnetic network of Seol is very active. As the troposphere has a high electrical charge, and heavy storms are generated almost perpetually, accompanied by spectacular (but potentially deadly) thunderbolt activity. A significant number of these are dry storms – tempests without moisture or rain.

But the real key to understanding Seol is geology, specifically plate tectonics. The planet has an unstable lithosphere, as the crust of the planet (the thin layer of distinctive chemical composition that overlays the upper mantle) is relatively thin, and compared to Earth is much more frequently subject to dynamic motion. As a result, there is practically constant change in the shape of the planet's surface. Since the crust is recycled by the vigorous plate tectonics, new fissures, trenches, canyons, gorges, and basins spring up frequently. Mountains emerge where no mountain existed before. These geological pits are filled with water or contrarily – water is siphoned away. As a plate meets another along a plate boundary, environmental hazards (such as earthquakes) are an everyday occurrence.

In general, the climate is similar to Earth's – the most prominent features are the two large polar regions. In contrast though, there are four narrow temperate zones, and there is NO equatorial tropical region. Precipitation patterns vary, but not wildly.

About 63% of the planet’s surface is oceanic and the remainder consists of huge continents and islands. Much of the continental shelf is below sea level.

Seol has two natural satellites: the moon Delos and the dwarf planet Mawu (also known as The Little Moon).

The evolution of flora and the fauna had to adapt to the special geological attributes of the planet. The rapidly changing conditions of life resulted in an ecosystem with a surprising pace of acclimatisation.

As for natural resources, the planet's crust contains large deposits of fossil fuels (among them a cheaply extractable safe gas with a high up-thrust – the hopper). Mineral ore bodies are formed through erosion and plate tectonics – these form concentrated sources for many metals and other elements.

Sadly, many of these resources are difficult to exploit on a short time scale due to the aggressive tectonics, so are generally considered non-renewable natural resources.

Seol has approximately 2,650,000,000 inhabitants. Population density varies widely around the globe. Recent history mentions four major administrative divisions (“nations”), but currently the planet has one sovereign government with global political and economic authority: the Layil Empire. This government – led by Nessa, the Second Sovereign – lays claim to the entirety of the land’s surface.

Structural Elements of the World

As an answer to the volatile crust of this planet, the inhabitants of Seol developed a culture of floating architecture and transportation. Constant unpredictable landslides made the building of long-term ground-based structures impossible – at the same time, the lower gravity and the presence of the cheap hopper gas favored the evolution of huge, mobile floating cities, where buildings compose an interlocking system with capacity for organic growth. The anchored metropolis thus – in the probable case of a wild tectonic movement or an earthquake – can be quickly and easily absquatulated.

The elite of the Empire manage the control, inspection, and coordination of these vast interdependent city systems with enormous floating fortresses that cruise along various layers of the atmosphere. The fortresses are centers of power, compressing every important element of executive authority into a complex form. Administration, order-keeping, various establishments, councils, boards, and secret services are all represented.

The main administrative center of the Empire is a monstrous floating fortress know as Siriad - naturally it surpasses every other regional fortress in its parameters, and it has several other functions as well - functions which are not clear even to the citizens of the Empire.

There are only a few proportionally small areas on the planet where the crust is always peaceful. One of these was known in an older time as the Land of the Sons of ENKY. The archon of this (now non-existent) monarchy augured a safe territory, on which would remain unaffected by Seol's erratic behavior through thousands of circles. The exodus of his people toward this land is chronicled in The Book, written by Jady, ENKY's most illustrious disciple.

The other relatively safe landmasses are composed of eternal snow and ice – the territories beyond the polar circles. These areas are fundamentally unsuitable to support life and cultivation, and so were developed by the Empire during the last 200 circles, largely as proving grounds for its confidential experiments and research.

The Layil Empire

Not much is known about the past administrative divisions of Seol. The planet has an obscure social history. Due to the constant plate movement, the intellectual and material values of past great civilizations were almost entirely lost or destroyed. The general attributes of Seol actively encouraged the development of large, centralized states – the regaining of order after massive catastrophes was most efficient with good control and strong organization.

The two main castes, the controllers (aristocracy) and the controlled (workers, regular citizens), evolved relatively early. The process was strengthened by the heavy monopolization of new technologies, methods, and inventions that aimed to solve the problems of everyday life (the creation of massive floating islands, new mining methods and materials, safer architectural and transportation technologies, and so forth). This process reached its peak in the technological evolution of the last 80 circles.

Today, the Empire is Seol and Seol is the Empire. This rapidly-evolving civilization, culture, and technical progress was made possible through a massive concentration of material resources – thus, the main goal of the Layil Empire was the assimilation of other administrative divisions from the very

beginning. The smaller states and nations, with their various interests, fell one after another and faded into the greater and grander Empire.

Currently the well-organised apparatus of the Empire controls the economic and social life of Seol with an iron grip. The sovereign government is the working answer to the fierce realities of this planet, and is considered the most viable solution.

Land of the Sons of Enky

The Land of the Sons of ENKY was the last free nation standing – and yet it was assimilated many circles ago. How this came to be is most curious.

The most prominent and most significant sources of resistance against the Empire are the quondam residents of this nation – the Enkies. During the Eternal War most of the Enkies were captured; however, several circles later there were still many citizens and
soldiers unaccounted for.
This is due to a unique genetic attribute of this nation: Enkies are able to teleport through time using their will alone. Neurobiological examinations show that through discipline and raw brain energy these people are able to make precise jumps in the timeline – moreover, with true focus of will they are even able to move things through time.

Defeat was inevitable, so the missing Enkies escaped the conflict and manhunt that followed, simply by travelling in time. After the success of the Project the Empire was able to capture most of those who were jumping to the not so distant past or future, or who returned to the present to continue the fight. Still, many Enkie soldiers, pilots, and saboteurs continue to evade the Empire and return to fight again. Thus, this conflict is known as the Eternal War.

As mentioned previously, the land is named after the archon who founded the monarchy of Atarach. ENKY was a Sos gp leader, a brilliant scientist and a philosopher. He was the qreatest time traveller of all time and the founder of the Sine Mora school of time travel.

He was also the man who ultimately split Atarach in two. His followers founded the Land of the Sons of ENKY, and the nonconformists who opposed his teachings, are now known as the Collaborationists. The independent state of the Collaborationists soon became part of the Empire, while the Enkies resisted. During the Eternal War, captured Enkies were rounded up and enslaved. This stage of history is what historians of the Empire call the Fourth Unity.

The Time

There are two conventional and practical ways to measure time on this planet. There are no months in the Earthly sense of word. The people of Seol count only the seasons, as quarters – four quarters are a circle, which, though the timelines are different, we could consider a year.

A new circle starts at the spring equinox. It follows from the differences of scale that there is no substitute for the hour or minute in this world - the unit of time measurement replacing both of these Earth standards is the nir. The base time measurement unit of the planet is the ori (plural: orii) - analogous to our second.

The Time According to Enky

The Enkies have adjusted their life to the time determined by the archon upon his Great Voyage. ENKY essentially determined the end of life on Seol – accurately to circles, nir and even ori. Consequently, this method of time measurement measures the time backwards. It is, in fact, a simple countdown.

How the cataclysm will happen? This will remain a mystery – the opinions of Enkie historians, scientists and theologists were split on this matter. What is certain is the date. The archon, meticulously considering the magnitude of his announcement, declared 4200 remaining circles for his people at that point of his life. Given the low number of circles, the future of the planet is not tied to the solar lifespan of Orloi (its sun).

ENKY's time, alongside other "religious" practices of the past are now dubbed superstition and are officially considered obsolete and dangerous, and thus illegal in the Empire. However, the black market still offers watches and chronographs for the rich and romantic.

The Time of the Imperial Chronometrics

The empire created its own system of time, or Imperial nirs - the first nir starts at sunset, and nirs are numbered from 1 to 340. For example, in Tira, the capital of the Empire, in the 4th quarter (winter) the sun rises during the 200th nir and noon takes place during the 262nd. In the 2nd quarter (summer) the sun rises during the 100th nir and noon falls upon the 212th nir.

Sunset is always at the end of the 340th nir. This manner of counting nirs has the advantage that every worker and servant of the Empire can easily see how much time they have to finish their day's work without artificial light.

The Imperial nirs is the official, and only "legitimate" time on Seol.

The Project

The Project was planned as an answer to the unpredictable geology of Seol.

During the Eternal War with the Enkies the Empire, with the help of renegade mercenaries and Collaborationist headhunters, began to hunt down the remaining Enkies. Nearly 2,000,000 were captured and forced to serve as a base for the Project.

The project meant the enslavement of an entire race and – with various transgenic modifiers and unnatural drugs – the forced use of the Enkles' natural gift. This meant a controlled, artificially-amplified use of time travel and time manipulation.

The Project was a tremendous and unequivocal success from society's point of view, as public application of the results included technological and cultural time archaeology (this kind of preservation has emerged as the dominant approach for historians of the Layil Empire), geologic predictions, and even crime fighting – in this way, two million slaves protect and help more than 2 billion citizens of the Empire.

However, the main goal of the Project was the reinforcement of the regime – the development of new military instruments and time technology as a weapon. The Project certainly did not disappoint in this regard.

Time Gravitation

Time gravitation was the Most important strategic development of the Empire within the bounds of the Project. Functionally, the weapon is similar to gravitation itself.
Traditionally, the gravitational attraction of a planet causes objects to fall toward it. As gravitation is the general property of mutual attraction between bodies of matter, and gravity is the attractive force, the solution is obvious. Remove classic gravity from the equation and replace matter with time, and you have got the basic principle of time gravitation.

(Note: According to general relativity, it is possible for gravitation to exist without gravity; well, this is indeed the case here. Gravity, without a mass to pull on, is simply acceleration. In physics, force equals mass times acceleration, and weight equals mass times gravity. Thus, weight is a force and mass is a mass – therefore, gravity is acceleration.)

How does it work? Well, the so called "time mass" of any entity (things or living beings) will grow when in the focus of the time gravitational weapon, meaning time will pass faster for whatever the weapon strikes. Devices known as relays are used to extend the range and effect of the weapon. The entirety of the air force and army, every single flying and tethered vehicle of the Empire is mounted with just such a transmitter relay. The elements of this powerful relay network thus expand both the radius of the focus and the intensity of time gravitation.

The relay system also employs structural and material stabilizers during the process, so the environmental motion for the entities under the effect of the time gravitational weapon seems absolutely normal.

A military force equipped with such technology is able to cause massive damage with reticulated spread, showing up in large numbers near the enemy. The only chance for the survival of any opposing force or resistant entity is the fragmentation, or refraction of this relay network, ergo the normalisation of its own "time mass.”

This is why the Enkle resistance fights against TIME.